



FBI 'Bugs' in an Embassy

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(Today's column is by Drew Pearson
and his associate, Jack Anderson.)

Washington.

The FBI, it has now been revealed, has been tapping the wires of the Dominican Embassy.

Under international law a foreign embassy has extraterritorial privileges reserved to that country only. The U. S. may not intrude on embassy territory, even if murder is committed inside.

The State Dept. therefore is very red-faced to find that the FBI placed taps on the wires of the Dominican Embassy in 1961 shortly after the assassination of dictator Trujillo.

This was disclosed as a result of the Justice Dept.'s prosecution of Bobby Baker, the former Senate Secretary, some of whose conversations were bugged and wiretapped. As a result of this FBI eavesdropping it may be that the Baker indictments will be thrown out of court. The matter is now being heard before U. S. Judge Oliver Gasch in pre-trial motions.

The Justice Dept., in admitting that some of Baker's conversations had been wiretapped and bugged, submitted conversations he had had with the Dominican Embassy. He had placed several phone calls to the embassy around May, 1961, usually speaking to the financial counselor, Oscar Ginebra, about the prospects of Joaquin Balaguer, then provisional president, becoming permanent president.

Balaguer resumed the presidency this year after defeating left-wing candidate Juan Bosch in the post-revolution election. It won't help Dominican-American relations for Balaguer now to discover that his phones were tapped the last time he headed the Dominican government.

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Secretary of State Dean Rusk was so alarmed over the eavesdropping that he sent an anguished appeal to the courts to suppress the evidence. Accordingly, Judge Gasch sealed the evidence and directed Baker and his attorneys not to mention the embassy wiretaps.

Oscar Ginebra, reached by this column at the Inter-American Development Bank where he

is now a section chief, recalls receiving a number of phone calls from Baker in the late spring of 1961.

It isn't known how long the FBI continued to monitor the embassy's phones. But FBI agents were listening in on the conversations of prominent Dominicans as late as this year.

The FBI tapped the phones of another Bobby Baker intimate, Jose Benitez, in Puerto Rico, while Juan Bosch lived in Benitez' apartment. The FBI wanted to know what Bosch was saying during the civil strife in the Dominican Republic. On one occasion he received a phone call from Santo Domingo reporting that one of the rebel leaders had been shot.

"See that he is shot in the back and then announce to the press that the Americans shot him," Bosch ordered over the phone.

Meanwhile, the story of FBI wiretapping continues to deepen.

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Congratulations to Sherwood Ross of radio station WOL for taking on Washington, D. C., landlords in the "war on slums" in the nation's capital. Despite tenants' fear of eviction, they reported housing violations to Ross who, working with D. C. inspectors, has reported 3,000 violations. An estimated 900 dwelling units have been cleaned up in Washington . . .

Congratulations to the Teamsters Union for launching a massive \$2,000,000 project to train 1,800 people, in Southern California, in truck driving, auto mechanics and passenger-car driving. The Teamsters are working with UCLA's Institute of Industrial Relations and are trying to help school dropouts.

Armistead L. Boothe, Alexandria, Va.—Thanks for calling our attention to the fact that the 1924 lawsuit against Congressman Howard Smith of Virginia and William P. Woolls was dismissed by the Supreme Court of Appeals in Virginia. The main point of our column was to refute Congressman Smith's statement that his integrity had never been questioned prior to our earlier column. It had been questioned in this lawsuit, even though in the end he won.